

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7, 10-14, and 23-42 in the present application. Please add claims 43-143 as follows.

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43. A medical messaging system, comprising:

a message including at least one memory location having at least two information segments;

a first information segment for storing information accessible by a medical provider;

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a second information segment for storing information accessible by a patient, and,

wherein the first information segment is not accessible by the patient.

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Cont.

44. A method for providing a message to a patient in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

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providing a message including an information segment;

wherein the information segment stores information accessible by a medical provider;

and,

wherein the information segment information is accessible by a patient only after the

medical provider accesses the information in the information segment.

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5 45. A method for providing a message to a patient in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message including an information segment;

wherein the information segment stores information accessible by a medical provider;

and,

10 wherein the information segment information is accessible by a patient only after the medical provider edits the information in the information segment.

46. A method for providing a message to a patient in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

15 providing a message including at least two information segments;

wherein a first information segment stores information accessible by a medical provider;

wherein a second information segment stores information accessible by a patient; and,

wherein the first information segment is not accessible by the patient.

20 47. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

generating a notification signal to the medical provider in response to a patient not retrieving information in the second information segment.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the notification signal is generated after a time period.

25 49. The method of claim 48, wherein the medical provider can specify the time period.

5 50. The method of claim 46, wherein the first information segment is accessible only by the medical provider.

51. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:  
generating a list of messages wherein each message has information stored in the first  
10 information segment.

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cont. 52. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:  
providing a title associated with the second information segment.

15 53. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:  
storing information in the first information segment.

54. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:  
storing information in the second information segment.

20 55. The method of claim 46, wherein an expert system stores information into the first information segment.

56. The method of claim 46, wherein an expert system stores information into the second  
25 information segment.

5 57. The method of claim 46, wherein the first information segment is associated with a patient.

58. The method of claim 46, wherein the first information segment is associated with a patient mailbox.

10 59. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

generating a notification signal responsive to information being stored in the first information segment.

15 60. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

generating a notification signal indicating that information is stored in the second information segment.

61. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

20 generating a notification signal indicating that information is not stored in the second information segment.

62. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

25 providing an upload source, wherein if a medical provider changes data in an information segment, the upload source can no longer update information in a message segment.

5 63. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

providing an upload source, wherein if a medical provider changes data in a mailbox, the upload source can no longer change data in the mailbox.

64. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of:

10 providing an upload source, wherein if a medical provider accesses information in the second information segment, the upload source can no longer change the information in the information segment.

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15 65. The method of claim 46, wherein editing by a medical provider to the first information segment is prevented responsive to the message being presented to the patient.

66. The method of claim 46, wherein access by a medical provider to the first information segment is prevented responsive to the message being presented to the patient.

20 67. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of messages accessible by a plurality of respective patients; and, obtaining a number of messages in the plurality of messages stored by a medical provider during a predetermined period of time.

25 68. The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:

5 generating a signal in response to a first message in the plurality of messages.

69. The method of claim 67, wherein an expert system stores a message in the plurality of messages.

10 70. The method of claim 67, wherein the obtaining step is for a first patient in the plurality of respective patients.

C/ Cont. 71. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the step of:

15 providing a plurality of messages accessible by a plurality of respective patients; and,  
presenting a number of messages in the plurality of messages with notification signals to a user.

20 72. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of messages accessible by a plurality of respective patients;  
obtaining a number of notification signals of a given type in the plurality of messages;  
and,  
presenting the number of notification signals to a user.

5 73. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message accessible by patient;

ci wherein the message includes a first information segment; and,

presenting a selection responsive to the stored information in the first information

10 segment.

Cont. 74. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of messages.

75. The method of claim 74, further comprising the step of:

15 removing the message from the set when the patient receives the message.

76. The method of claim 74, wherein the set of messages has associated notification signals.

77. The method of claim 76, further comprising the step of:

20 removing the message from the set when the patient receives the message.

78. The method of claim 76, further comprising the step of:

removing the message from the set.

25 79. The method of claim 76, further comprising the step of:

5 presenting a list of titles of the respective messages with respective notification signal information.

80. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a menu of options.

10 81. The method of claim 73, wherein the message is categorized in response to the message presented to the user.

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82. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of notification signals.

15 83. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a patient name corresponding to the message.

84. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of messages having respective information stored in respective information segments for a predetermined time period.

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85. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of messages having associated notification signals received by a medical provider.

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86. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of messages having associated notification signals which are categorized in response to the message presented to a medical provider.



5 87. The method of claim 73, wherein the first information segment is accessible by the patient.

88. The method of claim 73, wherein the first information segment is only accessible by a medical provider.

10 89. The method of claim 73, wherein the first information segment is a patient name.

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90. The method of claim 73, wherein the first information segment contains a signal representing the message status.

15 91. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection includes providing at least one choice for editing.

92. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a data entry form.

20 93. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection further comprises contact information.

94. The method of claim 73, wherein the selection is a set of patient mailboxes selected in response to a patient identifier.

5 95. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message accessible by a patient;

wherein the message includes at least one information segment; and,

presenting a signal responsive to the stored information in the at least one information

10 segment.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein the signal is a summary of the message.

97. The method of claim 95, wherein the signal is a notification signal.

15 98. The method of claim 95, wherein the signal is patient information associated with the message.

99. A method for providing message status information in a medical messaging system,  
20 comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of patient messages;

selecting a set of messages in the plurality of messages; and,

wherein each message in the set of messages has not been retrieved by the respective  
25 patient before a predetermined time.

5 100. The method of claim 99, wherein the set is sorted by information contained in each message in the set of messages.

101. The method of claim 99, wherein the set is sorted by the date of information storage in each message in the set of messages.

10 102. The method of claim 99, wherein the set is sorted by a user who stored information in each message in the set of messages.

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15 103. The method of claim 99, wherein the set is sorted by the patient to whom the message is sent in the set of messages.

104. A method for generating a notification signal in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message including at least one information segment;

20 wherein a time value is stored in the at least one information segment; and,

generating a notification signal when the message has not been received within a period determined by comparing the stored time value with a present time.

105. The method of claim 104, wherein the time value can be modified.

25 106. The method of claim 104, wherein only the medical provider can modify the time value.

5 107. The method of claim 104, wherein the respective time value is stored in a respective plurality of messages.

108. The method of claim 104, where the time value can only be modified by the user who stores information in the message.

10 109. The method of claim 104, wherein only the user that stores information in an information segment receives a notification signal.

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15 110. The method of claim 104, wherein an upload source that stores information in the message assigns a recipient for the notification signal.

111. The method of claim 104, where the time value is stored by an expert system.

20 112. The method of claim 104, where time value is stored by a first upload source and the patient message is stored by a second upload source.

113. The method of claim 104, wherein editing by a medical provider to the message is prevented responsive to the message being presented to the patient.

25 114. The method of claim 104, wherein access by a medical provider to the message is prevented responsive to the message being presented to the patient.

5 115. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical information messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message including the at least one information segment;

providing an upload source that stores information in the at least one information segment; and,

10 wherein a notification signal is generated responsive to the upload source changing information stored in the at least one information segment subsequent to access of the at least one information segment.

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15 116. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical information messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message with a first information segment;

wherein the message is associated with a patient; and,

20 wherein a notification signal is generated when first medical information is stored in the first information segment and the first medical information in the first segment is not accessible by the patient.

117. The method of claim 116, further comprising the step of:

removing the notification signal when second medical information is stored in a second information segment that is accessible by the patient.

25 118. The method of claim 117, further comprising the step of:

5 providing a designated medical provider responsible for providing information in the second information segment; and,

wherein the notification signal is sent to the medical provider.

119. The method of claim 117, further comprising the step of:

10 providing a designated upload source responsible for providing information in the second information segment; and,

wherein the notification signal is sent to the medical provider.

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120. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical information messaging system,  
15 comprising the steps of:

providing a message containing at least one information segment;

wherein an upload source stores information in the at least one information segment; and,

wherein a notification signal is generated responsive to

1) information stored in the at least one information segment and, 2) the information segment  
20 not accessed by a user within a predetermined time interval.

121. The system of claim 120, wherein the notification signal cannot be removed from the system until a medical provider accesses the at least one information segment associated with the notification signal.

5 122. The system of claim 120, wherein the notification signal is categorized in the medical information messaging system in response to the predetermined time interval being less than a value.

123. The system of claim 120, wherein the upload source that stores information in the at least  
10 one information segment assigns a recipient for the notification signal.

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Cont. 124. The system of claim 120, wherein upload source receives the notification signal.

125. The method of claim 120, wherein the information is stored by an expert system.  
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126. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical information messaging system,  
comprising the steps of:

providing a message containing at least one information segment;

wherein an upload source stores information in the at least one information segment;

20 wherein a notification signal is generated when the upload source stores information in the at least one information segment; and,

wherein the upload source can assign a recipient to receive a notification signal.

127. The method of claim 126, wherein the upload source is an expert system.  
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5 128. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical messaging system comprising the steps of:

providing a patient message containing at least one information segment;

wherein at least one user is responsible for placing information regarding a medical condition in the at least one information segment that is accessible by a patient;

10 wherein a notification signal is generated and is sent to the at least one user responsive to the patient attempting to access an information segment; and,

wherein a medical provider is designated as responsible for placing the patient message.

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15 129. A method for providing a notification signal in a medical messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a message having at least one information segment;

wherein the at least one information segment stores information regarding notification of at least one user; and,

20 wherein a notification signal is generated responsive to the information being stored in the at least one information segment.

130. The system of claim 129, wherein the notification signal is sent to a medical provider.

25 131. The method of claim 129, wherein the storing of information regarding notification of the at least one user is generated when a test is ordered for a patient.



5 132. A method for providing a notification signal, comprising the steps of:  
providing a message having at least a first information segment;  
providing an upload source;  
storing an identifying value specific to a patient test in the first information segment by  
a user;  
10 providing the identifying value to the upload source;  
providing a time value to the upload source; and,  
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cont. wherein, a notification signal is generated responsive to the upload source storing  
information associated with the identifying value in the first information segment within a time  
interval determined by the time value.

15 133. A method for generating a set of messages with notification signals in a medical  
messaging system, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of messages;  
providing at least one set of messages in the plurality of messages;  
20 wherein the at least one set of messages contains a particular notification type; and,  
wherein one or more notification signals is generated for each message in the at least one  
set.

25 134. The method of claim 133, further comprising the step of obtaining the number of  
messages in the at least one set.

5 135. the method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set contains messages wherein the one or more notification signals has been generated within a predetermined period of time.

136. The method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set is presented according to the type of notification signal.

10 137. The method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set is sorted according to a user.

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138. The method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set is presented in an order determined by information in a respective messages.

15 139. The method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set of messages is presented in a predetermined order according to the status of the one or more notification signals.

20 140. The method of claim 133, wherein the at least one set of messages presented in a predetermined order according to the classification of the one or more notification signals types.

141. A method for providing a message in a medical messaging system, comprising the step of:

25 presenting to a user prompt responsive to a number of times a menu has been accessed by the user.